Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

No. 49.

APR 5 1921
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

BUREAU OF CROP ESTIMATES,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 1, 1921.

FOREIGN CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORT.

CONTENTS.

Summary of Foreign Crop Prospects.
Crops in General: Germany and Czecho-Slovakia.
Castorseeds: India.
Cotton: Venezuela and Mexico (Lower California)
Dairy Products: Canada and Netherlands.
Flax: Russia, Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.
Live Stock: France, French West Africa (Haute-Volta), Morocco and Mexico (Lower Calif.)
Hemp: Canada.
Wood: Poland.
Stocks of Grain: Canada.
Sumac: Sicily.
Onions: Spain and Canary Islands.
Value of Crops: Sweden.
Salmon Pack: Canada.

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN CROP PROSPECTS.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS IN SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

The agricultural situation in the SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE has shown no material change from that published in our last report. In ARGENTINA favorable climatic conditions are still prevailing although there are some indications of slight damage to the crops caused by rains toward the end of the harvest. The weather has been more or less wet recently but though this may delay the corn crop it should increase the output. Recent reports received by the U. S. Bureau of Crop Estimates fail to throw any further light on crop prospects in Argentina other than that previously reported. Advices received through unofficial sources concerning the crops of AUSTRALIA are rather unfavorable when compared with previous estimates. Excessive rains have been reported in many parts of the Commonwealth and in some instances have caused damage to unprotected wheat stacks. While some observers place the outturn of wheat this year as low as 125,000,000 bushels, the latest official figures at present on file in this Bureau indicate a production of approximately 147,000,000 bushels. In the UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA beneficial rains have considerably improved the agricultural outlook, especially that of corn, in all parts of the Union. Recent reports show no change in the figures of area and production.

CROP CONDITIONS IN FRANCE.

In the NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, generally speaking, the weather has been mild this winter and the condition of cereal crops may be regarded as fairly favorable. In CANADA, mild weather has been prevailing, seeding having commenced in parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta a month earlier than usual. In France, rain which was needed almost everywhere, has at last fallen in abundance resulting in an immediate improvement in autumn-sown cereals, which were beginning to turn yellow. Climatic conditions have been generally favorable for spring work in the fields. Crop conditions on Feb. 1, 1921 were as follows, the condition on Feb. 1, 1920 being given in parentheses, (80 signifing "good" and 60 "fairly good"). Winter wheat 72 (70); Maslin 73 (80); Rye 74 (72); Winter barley 73 (70); and Winter oats 72 (70). Various reports of the RUSSIAN crops have been received from time to time, but no reliable information has been obtained. A government plan has been formulated for the compulsory sowing of all land, but it remains to be seen whether this will be possible. In GERMANY, the weather recently has been mild with a fair amount of rain. This has been favorable to the crops and cereal prospects are now quite satisfactory in most parts of the country.

SCANT NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

In the UNITED KINGDOM, very good progress was made with all field work during February, and spring cultivation is more advanced than is usual at this time of the year. The land has worked well and good seed beds are being obtained. Spring sowing began early and in the south and east large areas have already been drilled with spring cereals. Wheat has generally

No 49.

FOREIGN CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORTS,-CONT'D.

April 1, 1921.

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN CROP PROSPECTS,-CONT'D.

done well during February and on the whole is a strong healthy plant, though there are poor fields in some parts of the country. The area at present under wheat is estimated to be slightly greater than a year ago, having been increased in the north and east and reduced in the west. In FINLAND autumn sowings were effected under average circumstances and germination was good. The crops are now in a promising condition. In BELGIUM the late sown wheat is reported to be somewhat irregular, though otherwise germination has been satisfactory. Spring cultivation is progressing under genial circumstances. From ITALY there is little fresh news of the crops which are making normal progress. Mild weather prevailed throughout ROUMANIA during the month of January. With ample moisture in the soil, the winter cereals are making satisfactory growth and it is anticipated that late autumn together with winter sowings will bring the total wheat area up to about the normal.

WHEAT AREA SLIGHTLY GREATER IN UNITED KINGDOM.

The 1921 area of winter wheat is estimated at 4,646,000 acres or 5.8 per cent over last year. In SPAIN the agricultural situation continues favorable. In INDIA there is still a serious lack of moisture. According to a supplementary memorandum on the wheat area of 1920-21, issued by the Department of Statistics, the total revised estimate of the wheat acreage in India now stands at 23,352,000 acres as against 22,975,000 (revised) reported in the first forecast on January 31, 1921. The area sown to sugarcane is estimated at 2,555,000 acres, as against 2,686,000 acres last year, or a decrease of 5 per cent. The total yield of raw sugar is estimated at 2,465,000 long tons, as against 3,036,000 last year, or a decrease of 19 per cent. The total area returned on peanuts is estimated at 1,951,000 acres, as compared with 1,586,000 acres in 1919-20, or an increase of 23 per cent. The total yield is estimated at 931,000 long tons of nuts in shell, as against 822,000 tons last year. The 1920-21 crop of sesamum will probably be 20 per cent below the yield of the preceding year.

WINTER WHEAT AREA NORMAL IN ROUMANIA.

CROP ESTIMATES IN INDIA.

In NORTH AFRICA a good yield of cereals is predicted, as the crops are growing well and have a favorable appearance. In ALGERIA, work in the fields is proceeding normally and the weather is favorable for plowing. The situation in TUNIS is about normal. In EGYPT, the weather during February has been generally favorable. Early sown crops of wheat and barley are in very good condition, but those cultivated in consequence of the restriction of cotton planting are rather late and less satisfactory.

GOOD YIELD PREDICTED IN NORTH AFRICA.

CROPS IN GENERAL.

GERMANY:

The following table furnishes the final corrected statistics of crops in Germany for the year 1920, compared with 1919, secured from the Statistische Reichsamt.

Crop.	Year.	Area.	Production.	Yield per acre.
		1,000 acres	1,000 bushels	Bushels.
Winter wheat	1920	2,878	69,639	24.24
	1919	2,795	69,989	24.98
Summer wheat	1920	535	13,220	24.68
	1919	414	9,712	23.49
Winter spelt	1920	392	9,858	25.20
	1919	327	8,019	24.54
Winter rye	1920	10,417	191,704	18.48
	1919	10,663	236,768	22.15
Summer rye	1920	271	4,025	14.82
	1919	217	3,354	15.45
Summer barley	1920	2,961	82,639	27.88
	1919	2,781	76,695	27.51
Oats	1920	8,015	335,521	41.82
	1919	7,396	309,587	41.82

No. 49.

FOREIGN CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORTS,-CONT'D.

April 1, 1921.

CROPS IN GENERAL,-CONT'D.

GERMANY,-CONTINUED.

Crop.	Year.	Area.	Production.	Yield per acre.
		1,000 acres.	1,000 bushels:	Bushels.
Potatoes	1920	6,078	1,037,954	170.71
	1919	5,389	789,210	146.47
Sugar-beets	1920	808	1,000 Tons. 8,779	1,000 Tons. 10,87
	1919	745	6,413	8.61
Clover and grasses	1920	4,885	x10,974	2.25
	1919	4,679	9,194	1.96
Lucerne	1920	588	1,613	2.74
	1919	471	1,066	2.27
Irrigated meadows	1920	795	1,772	2.23
	1919	1,326	2,628	1.98
Other meadows	1920	12,768	24,304	1.90
	1919	12,296	20,026	1.63

Short tons used in this table.

(Consular Letter).

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA:

The Minister of Agriculture at Prague issues the following agricultural returns of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia 1920 crops. The statistics of Silesia and of Russia Subcarpathique are not yet completed. The production in bushels is as follows: Wheat 25,335,910 or 17.1 bushel per acre, Rye, 31,641,010 or 15.0 bushel per acre; Barley 36,247,804 or 21.7 bushels per acre; Oats, 55,396,052 or 30.4 bushels per acre; Mixed corn, 662,068; Maize 6,823,568; Millet 572,417; Buckwheat 80,087; Spelt, 37,743; Peas, 932,204; Beans, 341,118; Lentils, 136,667; Vetches 1,422,860; Beans for feeding, 572,325; Lupines 18,761; Rape 250,590; Mustard 135,950; Potatoes, 162,460,913.

(London, Grain, Seed and Oil Reporter).

CASTORSEEDS.

INDIA (Madras):

The area under castor in 1920 is estimated at 350,000 acres as compared with 454,000 acres estimated at the same date last year (Dec. 24). The area actually recorded last year at the close of the season was 474,600 acres. The decrease is general, but is heaviest in the Circars and Deccan where the partial failure of the South-west Monsoon prevented the usual area being sown. In the South a large initial decrease has to a certain extent been made up by late sowings. The crop has been badly affected by caterpillars in parts, and generally by the irregular rains. The yield is therefore below normal, and is estimated at 35,504 short tons, for the whole Presidency, as against 50,176 tons in 1919.

(London, Grain, Seed and Oil Reporter).

FOREIGN CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORTS,-CON'D.

April 1, 1921.

COTTON.

VENEZUELA:

The following figures show the average annual production of cotton in those States of Venezuela where the crop is cultivated to an appreciable extent, the data being taken from the Boletin del Ministerio de Fomento.

States.	Pounds.	States.	Pounds.
Anzoategui	110,830	Miranda	77,161
Aragua	2,302,555	Monagas	66,138
Carabobo	5,408,325	Sucre	507,058
Cojedes	21,605	Trujillo	1,323
Falcon	1,382,284	Yaracuy	1,014,116
Guarico	436,511	Portuguesa	110,230
Lara	275,575	Zulia	4,056,464

Cotton is also found in other States and Territories of the country, but since it is not cultivated it is not produced in sufficient quantities to afford a basis for calculation.

(Commerce Reports).

MEXICO (Lower California):

The cotton picked to date (March 6, 1921) in Lower California is 74,787 bales already, 20,000 bales in excess of last year's crop, and gives every promise of reaching the last estimate of 80,000 bales.

(Consular Letter).

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

CANADA (Quebec):

According to preliminary statistics just issued by the Provincial Bureau of Statistics there were 1,813 butter and cheese factories in operation in Quebec Province in 1920, as compared with 1,867, in 1919. The output for the past two years was:

Products.	Pounds.		Value.	
	1919.	1920.	1919.	1920.
Butter	37,681,303	40,037,692	$20,857,523	$22,352,146
Cheese	58,044,719	52,441,504	15,305,488	13,356,457

The average price of butter in 1920 was $0.558 per pound as compared with $0.554 for 1919; and of cheese $0.254, as compared with $0.263.

(Commerce Report.)

NETHERLANDS:

The returns of the Government butter control authorities show a production in 1920 of 51,367 short tons of butter as compared with 47,950 in 1919, 43,872 in 1918, 56,438 in 1917 and 65,587 in 1916. Out of this total production in 1920 there was exported to all countries a total of 23,738 tons.

(Commerce Reports).

No. 49.

FOREIGN CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORTS,-CONT'D.

April 1,1921.

FLAX.

RUSSIA;

The Ekonomicheskaya Zhizn (Economic) of December 18, 1920 an official organ of Soviet Russia published in Petrograd, contains the following article: The area under flax in Russia is only 10 per cent of what it was before the war. The crop from one acre amounted in 1910-1916 to from 5 to 6 bushels. In 1918 it amounted to 4 bushels, or less, and in 1920 to only 2 bushels. The entire production of flax in Russia in 1913 amounted to 20,571,399 bushels, in 1917 to 7,544,996 bushels, in 1918 to 6,771,150 bushels, in 1919 to 3,224,357 bushels, and in 1920 to only 1,612,179 bushels. In pre-war times Russia consumed about 4,514,100 bushels and exported 10,963,814 to 11,607,686 bushels. Thus the 1920 crop cannot meet even one-half of Russia's own requirements. According to the calculations of the same paper at least 1,612,179 bushels of flax are required in order that the remaining mills of Soviet Russia may continue working.

(Consular Letter.)

NETHERLANDS; BELGIUM AND GERMANY:

According to statistics recently published in the "N. R. Courant" the area under flax in Holland increased from 17,297 acres in 1914 to 19,768 in 1919 and to 51,891 in 1920; In Belgium it increased from 32,123 acres, in 1914 to 46,949 in 1919 and to 118,608 in 1920 and in Germany it increased from 32,123 in 1914 to 148,260 in 1919 and to 210,035 in 1920.

(Bulletin des Halles, Paris).

LIVESTOCK.

FRANCE:

The Ministry of Agriculture has published in the Journal Officiel of February 27th the provisional results of the livestock enumeration made Dec. 31, 1920. Comparative figures for 1920 and 1919 are as follows:-

Kind.	Dec. 31, 1920.	Dec. 31, 1919.
	Number.	Number.
Cattle	13,755,720	12,373,660
Sheep	9,376,630	8,990,990
Swine	4,585,380	4,080,560

(Journal d'Agriculture Pratique, France).

FRENCH WEST AFRICA (Haute-Volta):

The last livestock census gave the following results: Horses 27,350; Asses 63,590; Sheep 524,648; Goats 593,303; Cattle 416,689.

(Bulletin de l'Agence Gene ale des Colonies, Paris).

No. 49.

FOREIGN CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORTS,-CONT'D.

April 1, 1921.

LIVESTOCK,-CONT'D.

MOROCCO:

The "Agence Afrique et Levant" publishes a comparative table of the number of live stock submitted to the "terbib" tax:-

Camels	increased	from 60,000	to 98,000
Horses	"	" 123,000	" 194,000
Asses	"	" 226,000	" 415,000
Cattle	"	" 675,000	" 1,404,000
Swine	"	" 16,000	" 132,000
Sheep	"	" 3,185,000	to 6,720,000
Goats	"	" 1,662,000	" 4,079,000

On the whole the number of livestock owned by natives increased from 69,000 to 239,000 and as a whole from 5,337,000 to 11,121,000. This increase is probably to be explained in part by a more exact payment of the "terbib" tax. But it is not to be doubted that the Moroccain live-stock has increased considerably during the last five years in marvelous proportion.

(Bulletin des Halles, Paris).

MEXICO (Lower California):

There are some 30,000 cattle in the Ensenada Consular District. These supply local demand for beef and a few are marketed in the United States. There is no dairying industry and the small amount of cheese made is consumed locally.

It is estimated that there are 25,000 wild goats on Guadalupe Island. These are owned by the Mexican Government and in 1920 several shipments of live goats were made to the United States.

(Commerce Reports).

HEMP.

CANADA:

An effort is being made to encourage the sowing of hemp in the Prairie Provinces of Canada, with a view to ultimately producing products to replace those now imported. In 1920 there was sown in the vicinity of Winnipeg about 500 acres of hemp; tracts of land were also sown to hemp in the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and in each locality good crops and good quality of hemp were produced. Owing to the shortness of the season in western Canada it is not anticipated that a sufficient quantity of seed will be grown here. Seed is imported largely from Kentucky, but there will be imported this year directly from Italy about 1,000 pounds.

(Commerce Reports).

WOOD.

POLAND:

Poland's forest areas are so considerable as to allow an export of 397,125,000 cubic feet of wood, after all home needs for fuel, building and manufacture have been supplied. Up to the present the wood industry of Poland has been chiefly in the hands of foreign capital operating without provision for the future of Poland's forests or economic life. It is indispensable that the industry be founded on capital sufficiently large to bring profit to Poland through scientific exploitation of its forests and through an export of wood and wood products which will tend to restore Polish trade balance. Such establishments are beginning to appear in Poland, for example, the Posen Wood Co., Ltd., with a capital of 6,000,000 marks and with headquarters in Posen; also the Limited Company, for Wood Industry and Commerce, with a capital of 60,000,000 marks and an office in Warsaw. These interprises own large forest areas, and have established their own saw mills and factories producing building materials, railway ties, and other forms of manufactured wood.

(Translation from "Rzeczprospolita" Warsaw)
per Commerce Report.

No. 49.

FORFIGN CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORTS,-CONT'D.

April 1, 1921.

STOCKS OF GRAIN.

CANADA:

The stocks in store at different elevators for the week ending March 18, 1921 were as follows:- Wheat, 36,488,053 bushels; Oats 32,442,156 bushels; Barley, 5,157,783 bushels; Flax, 3,172,780 bushels; Rye, 389,080 bushels.

(Dominion Bureau of Statistics).

SUMAC.

SICILY:

Sicily is the largest producer of sumac in the world, followed by the United States. The annual output in recent years is estimated at 15,000 tons, a decrease of 50 per cent compared with pre-war production, due to the lack of cultivation brought about by war conditions. There are about eight sumac-grinding mills in Palermo. No works for the manufacture of sumac extract are established here but it is believed that with the present indication of a revival of the sumac trade such workds will be constructed.

(Commerce Reports).

ONIONS.

SPAIN (Valencia):

There are no statistics published showing the quantity of onions harvested annually in this district or the acreage planted. The following table shows shipments to all countries during the last five seasons the figures being stated in cases of about 2.33 bushels and crates of about 0.77 bushels:-

Country.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.
United States ..	72,218	176,931	304,285	.....	319,399
Great Britain ..	1,686,672	2,072,710	828,129	815,966	1,752,684
France	25,100	148,809	483,475	104,000	.....
All others	38,044	11,235	15,834	37,127	15,616
Total cases ..	1,822,034	2,409,685	1,631,723	957,093	2,087,699
	Crates.	Crates.	Crates.	Crates.	Crates.
United States ...	527,266	1,312,939	1,102,024	15,450	1,087,929
All others	4,185	22,280	10,005	.....	13,580
Total crates .	531,451	1,335,219	1,112,029	15,450	1,101,509

It is estimated that the quantity of onions for export from the 1921 crop will be approximately 3,000,000 cases or 7,000,000 bushels.

(Consular Letter).

CANARY ISLANDS:

As only a small percentage of the crop is used for local consumption, export figures give a fair idea of the annual production of onions. The annual average amount exported for the years 1912-17 was 2,063,815 bushels. The 1920 crop was an exceptionally large one but if there is not a decided change in weather conditions within the next month there will be a very small 1921 crop.

(Consular Letter).

FOREIGN CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORTS,-CONT'D .

April 1, 1921.

VALUE OF CROPS.

SWEDEN:

The Central Bureau of Statistics estimates the value of the 1920 harvest in Sweden, not including, however, the yield of sugar beets or the crops of vetch, beans, and peas, at 2,041,000,000 crowns [illegible],- ($414,837,315). The following table gives the value of the harvests of 1918, 1919 and 1920:

Crops.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Wheat	$ 31,501,935	$ 26,150,505	$ 21,036,585
Rye	64,028,065	57,815,404	46,341,463
Barley	27,228,065	22,520,202	18,089,433
Oats	81,355,484	73,108,838	58,841,463
Mixed grain	38,640,968	32,761,616	26,361,585
Potatoes	77,996,129	41,417,677	33,333,333
Root fodder	30,130,968	25,990,404	20,914,654
Hay	257,550,323	168,470,182	135,386,279
Straw	127,504,516	67,759,838	54,532,520
Total	735,936,453	515,994,666	414,837,315

From the above it will be noted that the 1920 harvests are estimated at considerably smaller value than those of 1918 and 1919, but it must be remembered that Swedish values have been converted, in the above table, at the average rates of exchange in 1918, 1919 and 1920 (3.10, 3.96 and 4.92 respectively). The value of cereals comprised in the 1920 harvest amounted to $170,670,529 against $ 242,754,517 in 1918 and $217,356,569 in 1919. The decrease in the value of the hay crop was not because of a shortage, for it is reported to have exceeded that of 1919 by at least 25 per cent but in consequence of a very material decline in price. Present reports from the sugar-beet districts in Sweden show unusually large crops, i. e., 1,020,000 tons against 913,200 in 1919.

(Commerce Reports).

SALMON PACK.

CANADA (British Columbia):

An estimate made about the 1st of February that only 40 per cent of the salmon pack customarily produced in British Columbia would be canned during the year 1921 has been further reduced and canners now look for about a 20 per cent pack; some canneries are prepared to put up about 25 per cent of their normal pack, while others are figuring on only 15 per cent. These will all be sockeyes, No "chums" will be canned in British Columbia during 1921 as there are close to three-quarters of a million cases still in stock without a market. In previous years the lower grades of fish shared the overhead expenses of the canneries; this year, there being no lower grades the sockeyes will carry the entire cost of operation.

(Commerce Reports).

NAT C. MURRAY,

Chief of Bureau.